

19 Juniper Street
Ipswich, MA 01938

July 18, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

RE: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Third Report and Order
MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Cable television companies agreed to provide funding for local PEG programming as a condition of operating in our communities, and this has produced tremendous, unanticipated benefits: Residents have become much more interested and engaged in their local government! They can watch public meetings if they cannot attend in person, and we no longer have to wait for a weekly newspaper to report (hopefully with accuracy) on newsworthy matters. We get to decide what is "newsworthy" and important! We get to see first-hand our elected and appointed officials at work. Video recording of public meetings provides an irrefutable record of proceedings. In addition to taping public meetings, Ipswich Community Access Media ("ICAM") produces and broadcasts annual "Candidate Forums" in which a moderator interviews candidates for town election (Select Board, School Committee, etc.) and solicits their views on local issues, providing voters an excellent opportunity to hear from candidates and make informed decisions.

ICAM broadcasts school sporting events and a wide variety of programs of local interest created by town residents and employees. Students in our schools have opportunities to participate in workshops and classes where they create programs and learn about broadcasting, perhaps taking them in a direction they never considered or thought possible.

Cable television companies continue to cut programming, increase rates and charge far more for equipment than they are worth (i.e., cable converter boxes). Now, they seek to chip away at vital services that they have agreed to provide at every contract renewal.

I oppose this Third Report and Order and respectfully ask you to reconsider. Please do not allow the progress we have made toward transparency and interest in local government to be destroyed and dismantle the small, but invaluable benefits that cable companies should continue to provide.

Thank you.

Best regards,



Linda Alexson
Select Board, Town of Ipswich, Massachusetts